DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 326 439 SE 051 801

TITLE National Environmental Education Act. Repor. To Accompany S. 1076. 101st Congress, 2d Session, Senate.

INSTITUTION Congress of the U.S., Washington, D.C. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

REPORT NO Senate-R-101-284

PUB DATE 11 May 90

NOTE 18p.; Calendar No. 541.

AVAILABLE FROM Superintendent of Documents, Congressional Sales Office, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

PUB TYPE Legal/Legislative/Regulatory Materials (090)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS *College Science; *Educational Legislation; *Environmental Education; *Federal Government; *Federal Legislation; *Government Role; Higher Education; Science Education

IDENTIFIERS Congress 101st

ABSTRACT

Environmental issues are increasingly complex and interrelated. Responding to national and global environmental problems over the long run will require public understanding of those problems. An expanded program in environmental education will provide a foundation for public understanding of environmental issues and help assure active and informed discussion of the best ways to address environmental problems. The National Environmental Education Act (S.1076) was introduced in May 1989 and is intended to renew and reestablish the federal role in environmental education. It is designed to complement the range of existing environmental education programs being implemented by both government agencies and nonprofit organizations. This report briefly describes the Act and provides a section-by-section analysis. In addition, hearings, roll call votes, regulatory impact, and estimated cost to the Federal Government are discussed. The full text of Senate Bill 1706 as reported is included in this document. (CW)

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ED326439

Calendar No. 541

101ST CONGRESS
2d Session

SENATE

REPORT
101-284

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACT

MAY 11 (legislative day, APRIL 18), 1990.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. BURDICK, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1076]

The Committee on Environment and Public Works, to which was referred the bill (S. 1076) to increase public understanding of the natural environment and to advance and develop environmental education and training, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with amendments and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

GENERAL STATEMENT

Environmental issues are increasingly complex and interrelated. Responding to national and global environmental problems over the long run will require public understanding of those problems. An expanded program in environmental education will provide a foundation for public understanding of environmental issues and help assure active and informed discussion of the best ways to address environmental problems.

The need for Federal support for environmental education was recognized in the late 1960s. In 1979, Congress passed the National Environmental Education Act, sponsored in the Senate by Gaylord Nelson. Over the next 10 years, the program was operated at a low level by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. In 1981, the Act was repealed as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act.

Recently, there has been renewed interest in environmental education. The Blueprint for the Environment, prepared in 1988 by environmental groups for the incoming President, calls for reestablishing a Federal role in environmental education and provides a range of suggestions in this area.

39-010

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Public interest in environmental education increased as a result of activities associated with the 20th anniversary of Earth Day (April 22, 1990). The original environmental education legislation was a product of the first Earth Day celebration.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACT

The National Environmental Education Act (S. 1076) was introduced by Senators Burdick, Chafee, Mitchell, Moynihan, Baucus, Lieberman, Jeffords, Graham and others on May 18, 1989. There are currently over 30 cosponsors of the Senate bill. Companion legislation was introduced in the House in 1989 by Representative George Miller (H.R. 3684).

The bill is intended to renew and reestablish the Federal role in environmental education. It is designed to complement the range of existing environmental education programs now being implemented by nonprofit organizations, local and State educational agencies, and various Federal agencies (e.g. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Forest Service).

The legislation establishes an Office of Environmental Education at EPA, calls for an expanded program of curriculum development and teacher training, provides small grants to local school systems and colleges, supports college level environmental interns in Federal agencies, and provides national and regional awards to recognize excellence in environmental education.

The full Environment and Public Works Committee held a hearing on the bill on February 2 of this year. Witnesses at the hearing included former Senator Gaylord Nelson, who sponsored the original Environmental Education Act, EPA Deputy Administrator Henry Habicht, representatives of the environmental education community (including the Alliance for Environmental Education, the North American Association for Environmental Education, and the Western Regional Environmental Education Council) and representatives of educational organizations (including the National Science Teachers Association and the National Education Association).

In general, witnesses expressed strong support for the bill. Deputy Administrator Habicht indicated that the Administration supports the bill while reserving the right to suggest improvements.

Two issues were the focus of substantial discussion at the hearing. There was a strong consensus of opinion that the EPA should take the lead in implementing the program. The original Act was administered by the Office of Education within the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, but the program was underfunded and eventually repealed. Witnesses at the hearing, including EPA Deputy Administrator Habicht and the National Education Association, indicated that the EPA is the most appropriate agency to manage the environmental education effort.

A second issue involved the level and method of funding for the proposed program. The bill includes a general authorization of $15 million per fiscal year. The bulk of this funding would be provided by a fund made up of 50 percent of the penalties paid by violators of Federal environmental laws. Total fees and penalties are be-

tween $15 million and $25 million a year and are expected to increase in coming years.

Several witnesses strongly supported the funding plan as necessary to provide a stable and reliable funding base for environmental education programs and to help address the underfunding problems experienced by the first Environmental Education Act. The EPA indicated some concern about any use of penalty funds other than returning such funds to the Treasury.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

A section-by-section analysis of the National Environmental Education Act, as reported is provided below.

Section 1.—Short title.

This act may be cited as the "National Environmental Education Act."

Section 2.—Findings.

Environmental problems are increasingly complex and interrelated. Responding to environmental problems over the long term will require improved public understanding of the natural environment and man's impact on it.

Section 3.—Definitions.

Key terms are defined. The Committee intends that the term "natural environment" have a broad interpretation and related issues relating to the interrelationship between natural and built surroundings.

Section 4.—Office of Environmental Education.

Establishes within the Environmental Protection Agency an Office of Environmental Education. The Office is to develop and support programs to improve understanding of the environment, develop curricula and related materials, and manage grant assistance and internship and fellowship programs.

Section 5.—National Environmental Education Program.

Establishes a national program to develop environmental education materials and curricula and to train educational professionals in the development and delivery of environmental education programs and studies. Each program is to be operated by a university or other organization, or a consortium of such organizations, and is to be funded with an annual grant from the EPA.

Section 6.—Environmental education grants.

EPA is to make grants to local education agencies, colleges and universities for the development of environmental education programs. Grants are to provide 75 percent of project costs. Grants are not to exceed $150,000 and 25 percent of grants are to be for $5,000 or less.

Section 7.—Environmental internships and fellowships.

The EPA and the Office of Personnel Management are to provide for not less than 250 colleage level internships and 50 fellowships for in-service teachers in Federal agencies each year.

Section 8.—Environmental education awards.

The EPA is to provide national and regional awards for excellence in environmental education. At the national level, awards include the "Theodore Roosevelt Award" in recognition of an outstanding career in environmental education, the "Henry David Thoreau Award" in recognition of an outstanding contribution to literature on the natural environment, and the "Rachel Carson Award" in recognition of an outstanding contribution to education on environmental issues in print or film media.

Section 9.—Environmental education Advisory Council and Task Force.

A national council, made up of environmental education experts, and a Task Force of Federal agencies is established to advise the Administrator on the implementation of this Act.

The Committee is concerned that senior Americans be given opportunities in environmental education. The Environmental Education Advisory Council should consult with non-profit older American organizations in advising the Administrator. In addition, the survey of environmental education opportunities undertaken by the Council should address environmental education opportunities available to older Americans.

Section 10.—Authorizations.

A total of $15 million per year is authorized to implement the Act. A trust fund is established to support programs of the Act. It is funded with 50 percent of the penalties paid by violators of environmental laws.

HEARINGS

The full Environment and Public Works Committee held a hearing on the bill on February 2 of this year. Witnesses at the hearing included former Senator Gaylord Nelson, who sponsored the original Environmental Education Act, EPA Deputy Administrator Henry Habicht, representatives of the environmental education community (including the Alliance for Environmental Education, the North American Association for Environmental Education, and Western Regional Environmental Education Council) and representatives of educational organizations (including the National Science Teachers Association and the National Education Association).

In general, witnesses expressed strong support for the bill. Deputy Administrator Habicht indicated that the Administration supports the bill while reserving the right to suggest improvements.

Two issues were the focus of substantial discussion at the hearing. There was a strong consensus of opinion that the EPA should take the lead in implementing the program. The original Act was

administered by the Office of Education within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, but the program was underfunded and eventually repealed. Witnesses at the hearing, including EPA Deputy Administrator Habicht and the National Education Association, indicated that the EPA is the most appropriate agency to manage and environmental education effort.

ROLL CALL VOTES

Section 7(b) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate and the rules of the Committee on Environment and Public Works provide that any roll call votes taken during the consideration of this bill be announced in this report.

The Committee approved S. 1076 with amendments, by voice vote, on April 24, 1990. The amendment include a series of changes to the original bill based on the testimony of witnesses at the February 2 Committee hearing. Key changes to the bill included in the Committee amendment include:

(A) Federal agency coordination. The amendment provides for a new Federal agency task force to advise the EPA Administrator on the implementation of environmental education programs. The Task Force will give key Federal agencies, including the Department of Education, a specific role in implementing the Act.

(B) Allocation of funds. The allocation of the $15 million authorized in the bill is revised from the current 40 percent for EPA Administration, 30 percent for training, and 30 percent for grants to 30 percent/30 percent/40 percent respectively.

(C) In-service teachers. The amendment provides for fellowships for up to fifty in-service teachers in Federal environmental agencies. The fellowships will provide an opportunity for teachers to gain new perspectives on environmental issues and will complement the internship program for college students.

(D) International programs. The amendment expands authority for international environmental education programs and initiatives.

(E) Definitions. The amendment clarifies definitions to assure that public broadcasters are included as not-for-profit organizations and that Indian schools are considered as local educational agencies.

(F) Program clarifications. The amendment increases the cap on the amount of a grant from $100,000 to $150,000 and increases the number of college level internships from 150 to 250 per year.

The Committee also approved an amendment by Senator Graham to include reference to the educational programs of the National Park Service and to reflect Senator Chafee's concern, wildlife refuges. This amendment was approved by voice vote.

Senator Chafee offered an amendment to provide that the total amount of penalties deposited in the Environmental Education Trust Fund in a given fiscal year not to exceed $15,000,000.00. This amendment was also approved by a voice vote.

REGULATORY IMPACT

In compliance with section 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate regarding regulatory impact, it is the opinion

of the committee that S. 1076, as reported, will not impose any new regulatory authority.

COST OF LEGISLATION

Section 403 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act requires that each bill contain a statement of the cost of such bill prepared by the Congressional Budget Office. That report follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, May 8, 1990.

Hon. QUENTIN N. BURDICK,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the attached cost estimate for S. 1076, the National Environmental Education Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them.

Sincerely,

ROBERT D. REISCHAUER, *Director.*

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE—COST ESTIMATE

1. Bill number: S. 1076.
2. Bill title: National Environmental Education Act.
3. Bill status: As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, April 24, 1990.
4. Bill purpose: S. 1076 would establish a federal program for environmental education. This program would be guided by a newly established Office of Environmental Education within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Under the bill, this office would develop and support environmental education and training programs, manage grants, oversee internships and fellowships, and administer education awards. The bill would also create an Environmental Education Advisory Council and a Federal Task Force on Environmental Education. Most of these activities would be funded by penalties collected for violations of certain federal environmental statutes and transferred into a new Environmental Education Trust Fund. The bill would authorize the appropriation of $15 million annually from the fund in fiscal years 1991 through 1996 for these purposes.
5. Estimated cost to the Federal Government:

[By fiscal year, in millions of dollars]

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Authorizations:					
Specified: Environmental education trust fund	15	15	15	15	15
Estimated: Internships and fellowships	4	4	4	4	5
Total: authorizations	19	19	19	19	20
Estimated outlays	14	18	19	19	20

Sec. 7. Environmental internships and fellowships.
Sec. 8. Environmental education awards.
Sec. 9. Environmental Education Advisory Council and Task Force.
Sec. 10. Environmental Education Trust Fund.
Sec. 11. Authorization.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) Threats to human health and environmental quality are increasingly complex, involving a wide range of conventional and toxic contaminants in the air and water and on the land.

(2) There is growing evidence of international environmental problems, such as global warming, ocean pollution, and declines in species diversity, and that these problems pose serious threats to human health and the environment on a global scale.

(3) Effective response to complex environmental problems requires understanding of the natural environment and awareness of environmental problems and their origins, and the skills to solve these problems.

(4) Development of effective solutions to environmental problems and effective implementation of environmental programs requires a well educated and trained, professional work force.

(5) Current Federal efforts to inform and educate the public concerning the natural environment and environmental problems are not adequate.

(6) Existing Federal support for development and training of professionals in environmental fields is not sufficient.

(7) The Federal Government, acting through the Environmental Protection Agency, should work with local education institutions, State education agencies, not-for-profit educational organizations, noncommercial educational broadcasting entities, and private sector interests to support development of curricula, special projects, and other activities, to increase understanding of the natural environment and to improve awareness of environmental problems.

(8) The Federal Government, acting through the coordinated efforts of its agencies and with the leadership of the Environmental Protection Agency, should work with local education institutions, State education agencies, not-for-profit educational organizations, noncommercial educational broadcasting entities, and private sector interests to develop and support methods, practices, and programs to assure the highest level of education and training, including technical and scientific skills, of professionals in environmental fields.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act, the term—

(1) "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(2) "Agency" means the United States Environmental Protection Agency;

(3) "Federal agency" or "agency of the United States" means any department, agency or other instrumentality of the Federal Government, any independent agency or establishment of

The costs of this bill fall within budget function 300.

Basis of Estimate: For the purposes of this estimate, it is assumed that S. 1076 will be enacted late in fiscal year 1990 and that the full amounts authorized will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Outlays have been estimated on the basis of allocations specified in the bill, historical spending patterns for similar programs, and information obtained from EPA.

Environmental education trust fund: The bill would create this fund within the Treasury and would require that 50 percent of penalties collected from the enforcement of six environmental statutes be deposited into the fund. The bill would authorize for appropriation $15 million each year from fiscal year 1991 to 1996. Of this amount, 30 percent would be available for the Office of Environmental Education, 30 percent for the environmental education and training program, and 40 percent for environmental education grants.

Internships and fellowships: This bill would require EPA to establish 250 internships and 50 fellowships each year for college students and teachers. CBO estimates that the internships and fellowships would result in costs of about $4 million a year.

Advisory Council and Task Force: The bill would establish a National Environmental Education Advisory Council and a Federal Task Force on Environmental Education. The advisory council would consist of 15 members, who would receive compensation and allowances for performance of their duties. CBO estimates that the council would result in costs of up to $300,000 each year. The task force would consist of representatives of various federal government agencies and would be charged with preparing a biennial report on environmental education. CBO estimates that the task force would cost about $100,000 in both fiscal years 1991 and 1992, and cost up to $60,000 annually in subsequent years.

6. Estimated cost to State and local governments: None.

7. Estimate comparison: None.

8. Previous CBO estimate: None.

9. Estimate prepared by: Laura Carter.

10. Estimate approved by: C. G. Nuckols (for James L. Blum, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis).

S. 1706, AS REPORTED

A BILL to increase public understanding of the natural environment and to advance and develop environmental education and training

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "National Environmental Education Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings.
Sec. 3. Definitions.
Sec. 4. Office of Environmental Education.
Sec. 5. Environmental education and training program.
Sec. 6. Environmental education grants.

the Federal Government including any Government corporation;

(4) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Department of Education;

(5) "local education agency" means any education agency as defined in section 198 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 3381) and shall include any tribally controlled school;

(6) "not-for-profit" organization means an organization, association, or institution described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, which is exempt from taxation pursuant to the provisions of section 501(a) of such code;

(7) "noncommercial education broadcasting entities" means any noncommercial educational broadcasting station (and/or its legal nonprofit affiliates) as defined and licensed by the Federal Communications Commission; and

(8) "tribal education agency" means a school or community college which is controlled by an Indian tribe, band, or nation, including any Alaska native village, which is recognized as eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians and which is not administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

SEC. 4. OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

(a) The Administrator shall establish an Office of Environmental Education within the Environmental Protection Agency.

(b) The Office of Environmental Education shall—

(1) develop and support programs and related efforts to improve understanding of the natural environment, and the relationships between humans and their environment, including the global aspects of environmental problems;

(2) support development and dissemination of model curricula, educational materials, and training programs for elementary and secondary students and other interested groups;

(3) develop and disseminate, in cooperation with educational and environmental organizations and noncommercial educational broadcasting entities, environmental education publications and audio/visual and other media materials;

(4) develop and support environmental education seminars, training programs, and workshops for environmental education professionals, as provided for in section 5 of this Act;

(5) manage Federal grant assistance provided to local education agencies, institutions of higher education, and other not-for-profit organizations and noncommercial education broadcasting entities, under section 6 of this Act;

(6) administer the environmental internship and fellowship program provided for in section 7 of this Act;

(7) administer the environmental awards program provided for in section 8 of this Act;

(8) provide staff support to the Advisory Council and Task Force provided for in section 9 of this Act;

(9) assess the demand for professional skills and training needed to respond to current and anticipated environmental problems and cooperate with appropriate institutions, organi-

zations, and agencies to develop training programs, curricula, and continuing education programs for teachers, school administrators, and related professionals;

(10) assure the coordination of Federal statutes and programs administered by the Agency relating to environmental education and work to reduce duplication or inconsistencies within these programs;

(11) work with the Department of Education, the Federal Interagency Committee on Education, and with other Federal agencies, including the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to assure the effective coordination of programs related to environmental education, including environmental education programs relating to national parks and wildlife refuges;

(12) provide technical assistance to local education agencies, State education and natural resource agencies, and others; and

(13) otherwise provide for the implementation of this Act.

(c) The Office of Environmental Education shall—

(1) be directed by a Director who shall be a member of the Senior Executive Service;

(2) include a headquarters staff of not less than ten full-time equivalent employees; and

(3) be supported by not less than one full-time equivalent employee in each Agency regional office.

SEC. 5. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM.

(a) There is hereby established an Environmental Education and Training Program. The purpose of the program shall be to train educational professionals in the development and delivery of environmental education and training programs and studies.

(b) The functions and activities of the program shall include, at a minimum—

(1) classroom training in environmental education and studies including environmental sciences and theory, educational methods and practices, environmental career or occupational education, and topical environmental issues and problems;

(2) demonstration of the design and conduct of environmental field studies and assessments;

(3) development of environmental education programs and curriculum, including programs and curriculum to meet the needs of diverse ethnic and cultural groups;

(4) sponsorship and management of international exchanges of teachers and other educational professionals involved in environmental programs and issues;

(5) evaluation and dissemination of environmental education materials, training methods, and related programs;

(6) sponsorship of conferences, seminars, and related forums for the advancement and development of environmental education and training curricula and materials, including international conferences, seminars, and forums; and

(7) such other activities as the Administrator determines to be consistent with the objectives of this Act.

Special emphasis should be placed on developing environmental education programs, workshops, and training tools which are portable and can be broadly disseminated.

(c)(1) The Administrator shall make a grant on an annual basis to an institution of higher education or other institution which is a not-for-profit institution (or consortia of such institutions) to operate the environmental education and training program required by this section.

(2) Any institution of higher education or other research institution (or consortia of such institutions) which is a not-for-profit organization and is interested in receiving a grant under this section may submit to the Administrator an application in such form and containing such information as the Administrator may require.

(3) The Administrator shall award grants under this section on the basis of—

(A) the capability to develop environmental education and training programs;

(B) the capability to deliver training to a range of participants and in a range of settings;

(C) the expertise of the staff in a range of appropriate disciplines;

(D) the relative economic effectiveness of the program in terms of the ratio of overhead costs to direct services;

(E) the capability to make effective use of existing national environmental education resources, programs, and networks, including public telecommunications networks;

(F) the results of any evaluation under paragraph (5) of this subsection; and

(G) such other factors as the Administrator deems appropriate.

(4) No funds made available to carry out this section shall be used for the acquisition of real property (including buildings) or the construction or substantial modification of any building.

(5) The Administrator shall establish procedures for a careful and detailed review and evaluation of the education and training program to determine whether the quality of the program being operated by the grantee warrants continued support under this section.

(d)(1) Individuals eligible for participation in the program are teachers, faculty, administrators and related support staff associated with local education agencies, colleges, and universities, employees of State education, environmental protection, and natural resource departments, and employees of not-for-profit organizations involved in environmental education activities and issues.

(2) Individuals shall be selected for participation in the program based on applications which shall be in such form as the Administrator determines to be appropriate.

(3) In selecting individuals to participate in the program, the Administrator shall provide for a wide geographic representation and a mix of individuals working at primary, secondary, postsecondary levels, and with appropriate other agencies and departments.

(4) Individuals selected for participation in the program may be provided with a stipend to cover travel and accommodations from

grant funds awarded pursuant to this section in such amounts as the Administrator determines to be appropriate.

SEC. 6. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GRANTS.

(a) The Administrator may enter into a cooperative agreement or contract, or provide financial assistance in the form of a grant or cooperative agreement to support projects to design, demonstrate, or disseminate practices, methods, or techniques related to environmental education and training.

(b) Activities eligible for grant support pursuant to this section shall include, but not be limited to—

(1) design, demonstration, or dissemination of environmental curricula, including development of educational tools and materials;

(2) design and demonstration of field methods, practices, and techniques, including assessment of environmental and ecological conditions and analysis of environmental pollution problems;

(3) conduct of special projects to understand and assess a specific environmental issue or a specific environmental problem, and, including international environmental problems;

(4) provision of training or related education for teachers, faculty, or related personnel in a specific geographic area or region; and

(5) design and demonstration of projects to foster international cooperation in addressing and environmental issues and problems.

(c) In making grants pursuant to this section, the Administrator shall give priority to those proposed projects which will develop—

(1) a new or significantly improved environmental education practice, method, or technique;

(2) an environmental education practice, method, or technique which may have wide application;

(3) an environmental education practice, method, or technique which addresses a skill or scientific field identified as a priority in the report developed pursuant to section 9(d) of this Act; and

(4) an environmental education practice, method or technique which addresses an environmental issue which, in the judgment of the Administrator, is of a high priority.

(d) The program established by this subsection shall include solicitations for projects, selection of suitable projects from among those proposed, supervision of such projects, evaluation of the results of projects, and dissemination of information on the effectiveness and feasibility of the practices, methods, techniques and processes. The Administrator shall publish regulations to assure satisfactory implementation of each element of the program authorized by this subsection.

(e) Within one hundred and eighty days after the date of enactment of this Act, and no less often than every twelve months thereafter, the Administrator shall publish a solicitation for environmental education grants. The solicitation notice shall prescribe the information to be included in the proposal and other information sufficient to permit the Administrator to assess the project.

(f) Any local education agency, college or university, State education agency or environmental agency, or not-for-profit organization, or noncommercial educational broadcasting entity may submit an application to the Administrator in response to the solicitations required by subsection (e) of this section.

(g) Each project under this section shall be performed by the applicant, or by a person satisfactory to the applicant.

(h) Federal funds for any demonstration project under this section shall not exceed 75 per centum of the total cost of such project. For the purposes of this section, the non-Federal share of project costs may be provided by inkind contributions and other noncash support. In cases where the Administrator determines that a proposed project merits support and cannot be undertaken without a higher rate of Federal support, the Administrator may approve grants under this section with a matching requirement other than that specified in this subsection, including full Federal funding.

(i) Grants under this section shall not exceed $150,000. In addition, 25 per centum of all funds obligated under this section in a fiscal year shall be for grants of not more than $5,000.

SEC. 7. ENVIRONMENTAL INTERNSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS.

(a) The Administrator shall, in consultation with the Office of Personnel Management and other appropriate Federal agencies, provide for internships by postsecondary level students and fellowships for in-service teachers with agencies of the Federal Government.

(b) The purpose of internships and fellowships pursuant to this section shall be to provide college level students and in-service teachers with an opportunity to work with professional staff of Federal agencies involved in environmental issues and thereby gain an understanding and appreciation of such issues and the skills and abilities appropriate to such professions.

(c) The Administrator shall, to the extent practicable, support not less than two hundred and fifty internships each year and not less than fifty fellowships each year.

(d) The internship and fellowship programs shall be managed by the Office of Environmental Education. Interns and fellows may serve in appropriate agencies of the Federal Government including, but not limited to, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Soil Conservation Service, the United States Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.

(e) Interns shall be hired on a temporary, full-time basis for not to exceed six months and shall be compensated at a rate of not less than GS-4 and not more than GS-7. Fellows shall be hired on a temporary full time basis for not to exceed twelve months and shall be compensated at a rate not less than GS-7 and not more than GS-11. Federal agencies hiring interns shall provide the funds necessary to support salaries and related costs.

(f)(1) Individuals eligible for participation in the internship program are students enrolled at accredited colleges or universities who have successfully completed not less than four courses or the

equivalent in environmental sciences or studies, as determined by the Administrator.

(2) Individuals eligible for participation in the fellowship program are in-service teachers who are currently employed by a local education agency and have not less than two years experience in teaching environmental education, environmental sciences, or related courses.

(g) Individuals shall be selected for internships and fellowships based on applications which shall be in such form as the Administrator considers appropriate.

(h) In selecting individuals for internships and fellowships, the Administrator shall provide for representation of geographic regions and minority groups.

SEC. 8. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AWARDS.

(a) The Administrator shall provide for a series of national awards recognizing outstanding contributions to environmental education.

(b) In addition to such other awards as the Administrator may provide for, national environmental awards shall include—

(A) The "Theodore Roosevelt Award" to be given in recognition of an outstanding career in environmental education, teaching, or administration;

(B) The "Henry David Thoreau Award" to be given in recognition of an outstanding contribution to literature on the natural environment and environmental pollution problems; and

(C) The "Rachael Carson Award" to be given in recognition of an outstanding contribution in print, or film, or broadcast media to public education and information on environmental issues or problems.

(c) Recipients of education awards provided for in subsection (b) shall be nominated by the Environmental Education Advisory Council provided for in section 9 of this Act.

(d) The Administrator may also provide for the "President's Environmental Youth Awards" to be given to young people in grades kindergarten through twelfth for an outstanding project to promote local environmental awareness.

(e) The Regional Administrator of each of the ten regional offices of the Environmental Protection Agency may present an "Outstanding Environmental Educator Award" on an annual basis to a teacher or faculty member from a local education agency, college or university, or not-for-profit organization in that region in recognition of a specific, outstanding contribution to environmental education during the past year.

SEC. 9. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL AND TASK FORCE.

(a) There is hereby established a National Environmental Education Advisory Council and a Federal Task Force on Environmental Education.

(b)(1) The Advisory Council shall advise, consult with, and make recommendations to, the Administrator on matters relating to activities, functions, and policies of the Agency under this Act. The Office of Environmental Education shall provide staff support to the Council.

(2) The Advisory Council shall consist of fifteen members appointed by the Administrator after consultation with the Secretary. Three members shall be appointed to represent primary and secondary education (one of whom shall be a classroom teacher); three members shall be appointed to represent colleges and universities; three members shall be appointed to represent not-for-profit organizations involved in environmental education; three members shall be appointed to represent State departments of education and natural resources; and three representatives shall be appointed to represent business and industry. A representative of the Secretary shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Advisory Council. The conflict of interest provision at section 208(a) of title 18, United States Code, shall not apply to members' participation in particular matters which affect the financial interests of employers which they represent pursuant to this subsection.

(3) The Administrator shall provide that members of the Council represent the various geographic regions of the country and that the professional backgrounds of the members include scientific, policy, and other appropriate disciplines.

(4) Each member of the Advisory Council shall hold office for a term of three years, except that—

(A) any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of such term; and

(B) the terms of the members first taking office shall expire as follows: five shall expire three years after the date of enactment of this Act, five shall expire two years after such date, and five shall expire one year after such date, as designated by the Administrator at the time of appointment.

(5) Members of the Advisory Council appointed under this section shall, while attending meetings of the Council or otherwise engaged in business of the Council, receive compensation and allowances at a rate to be fixed by the Administrator, but not exceeding the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay in effect for grade GS-18 of the General Schedule for each day (including travel time) during which they are engaged in the actual performance of duties vested in the Council. While away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Council, members of the Council shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in the Government service are allowed expenses under section 5703(b) of title 5 of the United States Code.

(6) Section 14(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act relating to termination, shall not apply to the Advisory Council.

(c)(1) The Federal Task Force on Environmental Education shall advise, consult with and make recommendations to the Administrator on matter relating to implementation of this Act and assure the coordination of such implementation activities with related activities of other Federal agencies.

(2) Membership of the Task Force shall include representatives of the—

(A) Department of Education,

(B) Fish and Wildlife Service,

(C) National Park Service,
(D) Forest Service,
(E) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
(F) Council on Environmental Quality; and
(G) National Science Foundation.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall chair the Task Force.

(d) The Advisory Council shall, after providing for public review and comment, submit to the Congress, within twenty-four months of enactment of this Act and biennially thereafter, a report which shall—

(A) describe and assess the extent and quality of environmental education in the Nation;

(B) provide a general description of the activities conducted pursuant to this Act and related authorities over the previous two-year period;

(C) summarize major obstacles to improving environmental education, including environmental education programs relating to national parks and wildlife refuges, and make recommendations for addressing such obstacles; and

(D) identify personnel skills, education, and training needed to respond to current and anticipated environmental problems and make recommendations for actions to assure sufficient educational and training opportunities in these professions.

The Federal Task Force on Environmental Education shall review and comment on a draft of the report to Congress.

SEC. 10. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION TRUST FUND.

(a) There is established in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known as the "Environmental Education Trust Fund", consisting of such amounts as may be deposited in such Trust Fund as provided in this section.

(b) Amounts in the Environmental Education Trust Fund shall be available, as provided in appropriation acts, to the Administrator for the purposes of making expenditures to carry out this Act.

(c) Fifty per centum of any penalty collected in response to Federal enforcement action pursuant to the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Solid Waste Disposal Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act shall be deposited in the Environmental Education Trust Fund unless any such penalty is required to be used for another purpose pursuant to Federal law: Provided further, That deposits to the fund pursuant to this subsection shall not exceed $15,000,000 in any given fiscal year.

SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION.

(a) There is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the Environmental Education Trust Fund to carry out this Act not to exceed $15,000,000 for each fiscal year 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, and 1996.

(b) Of such sums appropriated in a fiscal year, not more than 30 per centum shall be available for the activities of the Office of Environmental Education, not more than 30 per centum shall be available for the operation of the environmental education and

training program, and not more than 40 per centum shall be available for environmental education grants.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

Section 12 of the Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate requires publication of any changes in existing law by the reported bill. The bill makes no changes in existing law.

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